

REMARKS

Claims 1-32 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1-13 and 15-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoseit in view of Gehlot. Claim 14 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hoseit in view of Gehlot in further view of Clark. Claims 13-16, 19, 25, and 28 were amended to more clearly define the present invention. Claims 7 and 23 were canceled. It is respectfully submitted, however, that Applicant believes claims 1-6, 8-22, and 24-32, as amended, are patentable over the cited, either alone or in combination, for at least the following reasons.

Independent claims 1 and 19 and their respective dependent claims are directed towards a plurality of sensors, which begin in a stable state that corresponds with a secure environment. When an event is first detected by a single sensor, the detecting sensor's state elevates, and *subsequently the detecting sensor communicates with the remaining sensors so that all sensors transition from a stable state to an elevated state*. When a second event is detected by either the first detecting sensor or one of the remaining sensors, an alarm may then be generated by a central controller. Importantly, *the sensors may be positioned in one premise or in two or more discrete premises* that all are capable of communicating either over a local network and/or additionally a two-way cable network. Importantly, the plurality of sensors collaborates on the state of the environment surrounding the sensors. Furthermore, a central controller coupled to a plurality of sensors transmits a signal via *a two-way cable network* to a control center. *The control center may then transmit a response signal to a plurality of different central controllers*, which in turn elevate locally-networked sensors and/or generate an alarm signal.

It is respectfully submitted that Hoseit, Gehlot, and Clark, either alone or in combination, do not teach or imply the present invention as claimed. The cited art does not teach or imply collaboration among sensors that communicate with one another on the state of the environment and escalate accordingly. More specifically, Gehlot does not teach or imply that, when a first sensor detects an event, the first sensor communicates with the remaining coupled sensors *in order to elevate their state, where the remaining sensors may reside in one or more premises*. Additionally, the cited art does not teach or imply a communication among the plurality of sensors over *a two-way cable network*. Applicant argues that it is not obvious to combine Hoseit and Gehlot with Clark in order to communicate over a two-way cable network in the manner described in the present invention. Specifically, Gehlot utilizes GPS technology in order to track a mobile sensor; tracking a mobile sensor would not be practical using a two-way cable network. Additionally, it is not obvious to combine Hoseit and Gehlot with Clark in order to transmit signals via the two-way cable network in order to elevate the states and/or generate an alarm signal of *a plurality of sensors that reside in different premises via a plurality of central controllers*.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and in view of the following remarks.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated January 13, 2006. Claims 1-6, 8-22, and 24-32 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with claims 1 and 19 being independent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 2 independent claims. Because Applicant has previously paid for 32 total claims and 3 independent claims, Applicant submits that no additional fee is due. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

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